

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writing to voice my objection to any proposal to permit unconventional gas (fracking) in Victoria. I am truly frightened by the prospect of what fracking can do to the environment and water supply. For some years now I have been watching what corporate greed is doing to people, animals, business competitors and the environment. My observations have not encouraged me to optimistically believe that individuals and societies can be trusted to pull themselves into line. No amount of new laws has seen this current society trend upwards on the good behaviour graph. Coal seam gas companies cannot be trusted to do the right thing by the society in which they operate (and do not, themselves, live in). They destroy the environment, go home to their own clean environment, and then move onto another location to destroy.

My greatest concern about CSG is the water supply. CSG operations use vast quantities of drinking water. Then, as if that is not enough, they poison aquifers during their operations. This is a drought stricken country and we cannot afford to be reducing our supply of drinking water. EVERY human needs water to survive. It is our number one need. And you cannot rely on the desalination plant. If too many communities rely on de-sal water, then surely the ocean level is going to eventually drop and the coastline will be driven out to sea and shipping berths will be left high and dry.

My second greatest concern is the poisoning of the atmosphere through CSG operations. Lethal chemicals are used in fracking and these chemicals are not all retrieved and safely stored and disposed of. Many of the chemicals remain in the ground or escape into the air, poisoning people nearby or downwind. CSG companies have a history of not cleaning up after themselves and pools of poisoned water are left behind at the gas wells. These chemicals evaporate into the air and come back down again in acid rain. Or they are evaporated and blown about by the wind into your back yard and mine.

Methane gas leaks from the gas well during operations. Methane gas is 25 times worse than carbon for creating the greenhouse effect. In Queensland 45% of gas wells have leaked methane.

There is a 6-7% well failure rate. Given the huge number of wells that potentially could be established in areas of Victoria, that means that numerous wells would fail and leak poisons into the soil, water supply and/or air.

Australian standards have not kept up with industries such as fracking. Regulations have not been established to control the release into the environment of fracking poisons.

Would you take your holidays in an area where a multitude of unknown poisons are floating in the air? Would you enjoy the scenery and noise pollution of a multitude of above ground coal seam gas wells? Would you take your chances on the safety of water that has possibly been poisoned by unknown lethal chemicals? Doesn't sound like the ideal holiday destination to me.

All this gas production does not reduce the price of gas in Australia. Our gas prices are tied to what the Asian market is willing to pay. There is no economic benefit for us in destroying our

environment. Our gas price will not decrease and there will be negligible employment opportunities as CSG experts are flown into Australia to operate these wells.

Local residents ARE being made sick by fracking operations in the USA and Australia. And the CSG companies are reluctant to reveal what poisons they have used that are making people sick. How do you effectively treat someone's health problems when you don't know the exact cause?

Please do not allow fracking to destroy our environment, our water supply, our health and our tourism industry. Say, "No" to fracking in Victoria.

Sincerely yours,

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